

Oral Questions

may I ask hon. members to join with me in calling attention to the presence in our gallery of a very distinguished visitor, the Prime Minister of Denmark, the Right Hon. H. E. Jorgensen, who is visiting us here as part of a goodwill tour. We certainly wish him and his party from Denmark the best of success.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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SPORTS**COST OF HALF-TIME SHOW AT GREY CUP GAME—SUGGESTED USE OF MARCHING BAND TO REDUCE COST**

Mr. Ken Hurlburt (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport). In light of the fact that the Edmonton Eskimos made a great contribution to national unity last Saturday—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1502)

Mr. Hurlburt:—and in light of the fact that constituents of mine are interested in finding out the cost of the half-time show during the Grey Cup game, would the minister confirm that those half-time festivities cost approximately \$100,000?

Hon. Iona Campagnolo (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): No, Mr. Speaker, I will not confirm that they cost \$100,000 but I will give the precise cost. The cost was \$60,000, \$10,000 paid by the CFL. We had an audience of seven million people on television and 70,000 people in the stadium in order to show the people of Canada the rich diversity of amateur sports that there is to share.

Mr. Hurlburt: A short supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In light of the fact that this country is in the worst financial position of its history and in light of the fact that many marching bands were available to put on a half-time show at 10 per cent of the cost, may I ask the minister if she checked with some of the greatest marching bands in Canada who could have put on the show for one-quarter the cost?

Mrs. Campagnolo: Mr. Speaker, I certainly hope the hon. member recalls the amount of money that was put into Lethbridge for the Canada games. I think I do not have to remind him that the budget was set in the estimates last year and he had full access to the committee hearings. I believe he will have the same opportunity this year. From the letters I am getting I am sure that most Canadians feel the same way.

[Mr. Speaker.]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY**PROCEDURAL REGULARITY OF LEGISLATIVE ITEMS IN ESTIMATES**

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps hon. members will recall that in March of this year I made a ruling in respect of the procedural regularity of legislative items contained in the estimates. In the course of that ruling I pointed out that in future I should like to find a regime for avoiding some of the difficulties we face when these points are argued.

In the past, we have been faced with these arguments as part of the supply bill only when the supply bill was introduced. It seemed to me at the time that this presented us with some grave difficulties in that the arguments themselves could be prepared in advance. However, there was no machinery by which defences could be prepared and, therefore, no prepared argument on both sides of the question which could be of assistance to the Chair in attempting to make a decision. In fact, in making a decision in that sort of eleventh-hour atmosphere the Chair never had any assurance that the arguments had in any way been brought to the attention of the ministers concerned. Often, ministers do not address themselves to that particular moment of our procedures and may have no way of knowing that matters had been called into question.

I extended a general invitation to the House to suggest procedures by which we might experiment to find a remedy for this difficulty. Some supplementary estimates are coming up again for finalization. I want to indicate to the House that I am not doing this in order to invite objections. I have had indications in an informal way that there is a desire to argue some of these matters. I think it is incumbent upon me to suggest to the House a procedure which I hope will be found to be a little more equitable and will at least serve as a useful experiment.

Since Friday of this week has been designated as an allotted day, a supply day, the second last in this trimester, it would seem appropriate to me that arguments on this matter ought to take place at that time. This would have the advantage of giving the Chair an opportunity to consider the arguments sometime prior to or on the last supply day, and making a decision before the introduction of a supply bill. It seems to me that I ought to make this suggestion to the House today in order to ask members who wish to take issue with any such item to please give me notice so that I can indicate it to the House by three o'clock tomorrow afternoon. This will give both sides of the House the opportunity to examine these contested items and to prepare argument on one side or the other. It will also give the Chair the advantage of prepared argument on both sides which can be considered before I try to make a ruling at the time the supply bill comes down.

I should like to indicate to the House that my purpose is simply to try to introduce some intelligence into our discussion or dispute on these matters, and avoid the obvious difficulty of